

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00

NEAE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-07 PRS-01 CPR-02 /049 W

----- 014994

O 231703Z MAY 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 630

INFO USINT ALGEIRS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEMH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMZMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY 047

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMZMBWSSY MOSCOW 051

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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SECTO 620

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD BY POUCH

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
AND ZIEGLER

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (HENRY A. KISSINGER), SY

SUBJECT: TEXT OF SECRETARY'S TOAST AND FOREIGN MINISTER'S
REPLY AT LUNCHEON MAY 23

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE COMPLETE TEXTS OF THE SECRETARY'S
TOAST AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPLY WHICH FOLLOWED A LUNCHEON
HOSTED MAY 23 BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND
OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DISENGAGE-
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MENT NEGOTIATIONS DURING PAST MONTH:

2. SECRETARY'S TOAST:

MR. MR. MINISTER, MR. DEFENSE MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

I CONSIDER THIS OCCASION A RATHER MOMENTOUS EVENT. SIX MONTHS AGO IF ANYONE HAD PREDICTED THAT AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD MEET AT THIS RESIDENCE OF AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WITH SUCH A DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF SYRIANS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A DREAMER. YET WE MEET HERE TODAY NOT ONLY IN OUR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES BUT, HAVING WORKED TOGETHER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH INCREASING CONFIDENCE AND FRIENDSHIP. WHEN I FIRST MET THE FOREIGN MINISTER HIS NATURAL AFFECTION FOR ANYTHING AMERICAN NEVERTHELESS HAD TO GIVE WAY TO SOME SUSPICION ENGENDERED BY SIX YEARS OF ISOLATION. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NOW RECOGNIZED THAT CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND THAT HOSTILITY SERVES NEITHER OF OUR PEOPLE.

THERE IS AN OVERRIDING NEED TO BRING A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE UNITED STATES HAS ENGAGED ITSELF IN THAT EFFORT. AS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THAT EFFORT, WE HAVE IN THE LAST FOUR WEEKS, ALL OF US AROUND THIS TABLE, WORKED TO BRING ABOUT A DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES. IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION EASED SOMEWHAT BY THE NATURAL CONCILIATIVENESS OF BOTH SIDES. IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT BUT WE HAVE PERSEVERED BECAUSE ALL OF US AROUND THIS TABLE RECOGNIZE THAT THE FIRST STEP IS ALWAYS THE HARDEST.

THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH SUFFERING IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IT IS TIME THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST BEGAN TO DEVOTE THEIR TALENTS TO PEACEFUL PURSUITS. IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN THIS NEGOTIATION AND EVEN IF WE SHOULD FOR SOME REASON NOT COMPLETE IT ON THIS TRIP, WE WILL SURELY BRING IT TO A CONCLUSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND I WANT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE SPIRIT THAT HAS BEEN DISPLAYED BY THE SYRIAN SIDE. IT IS THIS SPIRIT WHICH WILL HELP US MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TOWARDS IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE PERSONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE FORMED IN THE WEEKS PAST WILL BE DEEPENED IN THE MONTHS TO COME.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE UNFAILING HOSPITALITY WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN GREETED HERE AND FOR THE PERSONAL WARMTH OF OUR HOSTS. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST: TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO MY FRIEND, THE

FOREIGN MINISTER, AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPLY:

DR. KISSINGER, MRS. KISSINGER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I THANK THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE VERY FINE WORDS HE UTTERED WHICH TO ME REFLECT THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEGUN TO BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AGREE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ESPECIALLY WHAT HE SAID, NAMELY THAT SIX MONTHS AGO NO ONE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT SUCH A PARTY WOULD BE GIVEN IN SUCH A PLACE. THE REASON FOR THAT IMPRESSION WAS THAT FOR A LONG TIME THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RESTED UPON SOME INGLOURIOUS PAGES OF EVENTS, NOT BECAUSE OUR PEOPLE HAD ANY ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BUT BECAUSE, AS THE SECRETARY KNOWS, THE AMERICAN POLICY FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME HAD BEEN FASHIONED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INDICATE THAT IT WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS A GREAT POWER AND ITS RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS PEACE AND STABILITY IN OTHER COUNTRIES. UP TILL THE OCTOBER WAR, DR. KISSINGER STARTED HIS INITIATIVE TOWARDS PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS AREA. THESE EFFORTS MUST BE APPRECIATED TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE POSSIBLE. IT IS NOT EASY THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SPENT ONE WHOLE MONTH IN THE AREA LOOKING FOR AN OUTLET FOR PEACE. THESE EFFORTS WILL ALWAYS BE APPRECIATED BY US ALL. THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY THE RESULT OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE ALL LOOK TOWARDS A JUST PEACE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE NO DOUBT FELT THE DEEP GENUINE INTENTIONS OF THE SYRIAN SIDE FOR PEACE. I AM SURE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR THAT OUR PEOPLE WANTED PEACE AND FEEL THAT WE MUST LOOK TOWARD IT. THAT IS WHY, IN FACT, THE OCTOBER WAR, WHEN IT BROKE OUT, WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A JUST PEACE BEACUSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A LASTING PEACE AS LONG AS THERE IS OCCUPATION OR THE THREAT OF

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OCCUPATION AND BECAUSE THERE CAN NEVER BE A JUST PEACE AS LONG AS THERE IS THE NUMBER OF TWO MILLION PALESTINIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN UTTER MISERY.

OUR AGREEMENT, THEREFORE (THE AMERICAN SIDE AND OUR SIDE HAVING AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE NEED FOR A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE) HAS OPENED UP THE WIDE AVENUES LEADING TO THE OBJECTIVE OF PEACE. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED WHEN HE HEARS THAT HE IS THE FIRST RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN OFFICIAL FROM WHOSE LIPS WE HEAR THE CLEAR ENUNCIATION OF THE PURPOSE OF A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE. THAT IS WHY THE GENERAL ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS, THE DEVELOPMENT THEREOF, THE IMPROVEMENT THEREOF, WILL ALWAYS REMAIN INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH THE EFFORTS EXPENDED BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER MY THANKS ON BEHALF OF MY

COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF FOR THIS LOVELY BANQUET. PERMIT ME TO
OFFER THE TOAST OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US, THE TOAST FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES,
A TOAST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND PERMENENT PEACE,
AND THE TOAST HONORING DR. AND MRS. KISSINGER AND ALL OF OUR
FRIENDS.
KISSINGER

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